

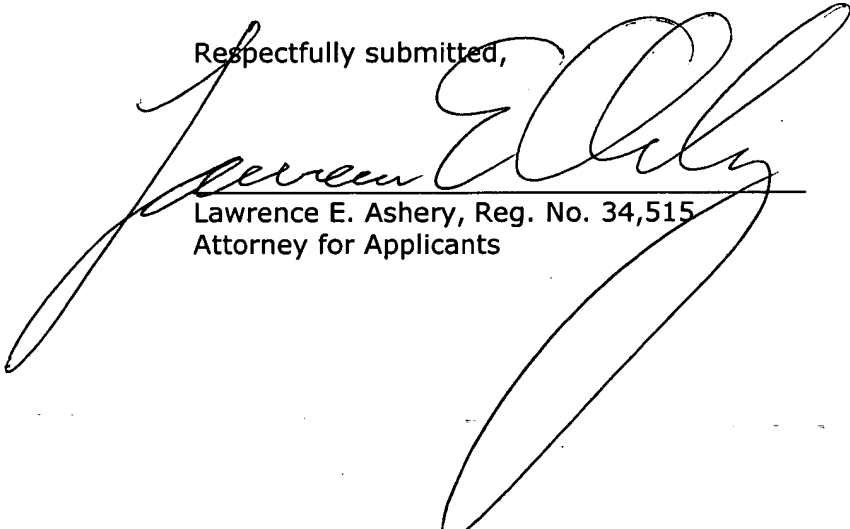
Remarks/Arguments:

The Board of Appeals has reversed the Examiner's rejection under 35 USC Section 112. Furthermore, the Board of Appeals affirmed the Examiner's rejection under 35 USC Section 102 and 35 USC Section 103. Furthermore, claim 51 was previously found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Accordingly, the features of claim 51 have been added into claim 40 and claim 51 has been cancelled.

In view of the amendments set forth above, the above identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515
Attorney for Applicants

LEA:ds

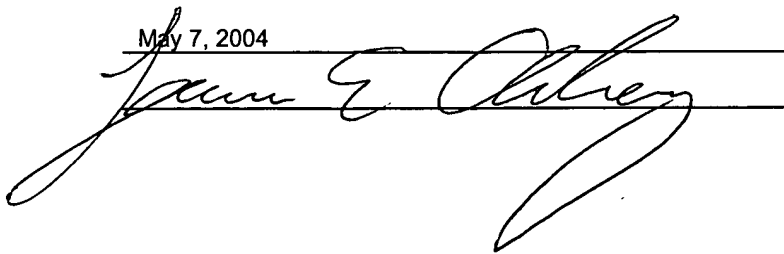
Dated: May 7, 2004

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

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